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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH
JOINT EMBASSY-USOM

FROM : American Embassy, BENGHAZI — 21 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. July 20, 1959 DATE

773.00/6-1859 AF

REF : Embassy Despatch No. 257, dated June 18, 1959

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
16	AF	
	NEA-3	RM/R-2 AF-5 ICA-11 IRC-8 E-7
	REC'D 7/27	INFO OTHER: CIA-10 OSD-4 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-1

SUBJECT: Opposition Deputy Calls on USOM Director

The tentative flirtation between opposition Deputy Abd al-Qader Badri (Cyrenaica) and official American agencies continues to make progress. He met the Country Director/USOM for the first time at the Embassy reception July 4 and called on him at his office two days later. The Memorandum of Conversation of their talk, which is attached, may serve as a useful supplement to that transmitted under cover of the Despatch under reference.

The Embassy and USOM are under no illusions that Badri is about to be won over by their logic; opportunism and narrow self-interest will probably continue to be the principal guidelines for his actions. Still, there is a tenuous link now between him and the Americans where nothing existed a few months ago, a link which could have ultimate mutual advantages.

For the Ambassador:

H. H. Stackhouse
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure:

Memo of Conversation dated 7/13/59

Cleared by: BHBrown, USOM

CC: Amembassy Tripoli
USOM, Benghazi

HHStackhouse:mavt
REPORTER

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Benghazi
July 13, 1959

SUBJECT: Views of Opposition Deputy on U.S. Aid Program

PARTICIPANTS: Abd al-Qader Badri, Member of Parliament from Cyrenaica
Ben H. Brown, Jr., Director/USOM

REFERENCE: Memorandum of Conversation, dated June 13, 1959, between Sayyed Badri and Mr. Stackhouse

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At the Ambassador's 4th of July reception, Sayyed Abd al-Qadar Badri told me he would like to come to call. We agreed on a meeting for 10 a.m. on Monday, July 6.

Sayyed Badri arrived on schedule and informed me that I was the first American official he had called on in his own office. He said he came because he was a friend of America and wanted to give me his views on the aid program.

Generally the views expressed were the same as those referred to in the referenced memorandum. They differed, however, in that Badri gave as his reason for the cessation of his criticisms, since the end of Ramadan, the two police cars. He stated that if this was what our aid program was doing, it had passed beyond criticism and was hopeless. He made at this point no reference to the Fezzan road, the reason given to Mr. Stackhouse.

Although I suggested to Badri that he should not judge the whole aid program, which had brought more than $50 million to Libya, by two automobiles costing at a maximum $7,000, he continued to refer to the two vehicles throughout the conversation. When I mentioned the fact I had heard that one of the vehicles had been wrecked, he replied, "You see, even Allah disapproves of this gift and is getting rid of them."

I suggested that he look at the number of schools that have been contributed to Libya, the number of pupils now being educated compared to 1952, and to various other accomplishments. He replied that the education program was good but that everyone in Libya would rather have two ambulances than two police cars.

After considerable conversation on the subject of dykes, which he considered something of a waste of money, and wells, he finally agreed that perhaps both were necessary. But he reiterated his belief that wells are far more to be desired. I took the occasion

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to try to educate him a bit on the relationship between exploration wells and production wells, but seemed to make little impression.

As Badri rose to depart, he thanked me for listening to his comments and said he would like to have another conversation at another time. I expressed my thanks for his coming in and told him I would be happy to talk with him at any time. I stressed that I had not been arguing with his views, but was merely trying to explain our position.

BHBrown:es:mavt